

*Commissioners*

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, *Chair*  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, *Commissioner/Secretary*  
**JONATHAN T. SWAIN**, *Commissioner*  
**LANCE GOUGH**, *Executive Director*



**Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago**  
**Minutes of Regular Board Meeting**  
**August 27, 2019, 9:30 a.m.**

**69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602**

**Board Members:**

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairwoman  
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary  
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

**Staff:**

Lance Gough, Executive Director  
Charles Holiday, Assistant Executive Director  
Adam W. Lasker, General Counsel  
James P. Allen, Communications Director  
Peter Peso, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Opal Walls, Purchasing Agent  
Paulina Mysliwiec, Acting Community Services Manager  
Bill Perez, Coordinator Hispanic Outreach  
Sarita Villarreal, Consultant  
Gary Ryczyn, Consultant  
Geneva Morris, Videographer  
Trish Sheehy

**Guests:**

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)  
George Blakemore  
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow PUSH Coalition

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All Board members were present.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: Executive Director Gough requested that agenda item VII "New Business (B)-Agreement between the Board and MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services" be deferred. Commissioner Kresse moved to defer the item. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The Board voted 3:0 to approve the motion and defer the agenda item to another meeting.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 9, 2019. Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 9, 2019.

Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion and the Minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

B. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Lance Gough reported as follows:

- On August 21<sup>st</sup> Mr. Gough attended the signing of Senate Bill 2090 (SB2090) and House Bill 2541 (HB2541), legislation regarding pre-trial detainees and voter's rights education for inmates upon release.
  - We are scheduling meetings with the Sheriff's Office and we have a meeting scheduled with the Shriver Center for the 10<sup>th</sup>, to discuss House Bill 2541 (HB2541) which is the education piece. We've worked on pamphlets and these meetings will be on distributing those.
  - The Chair said that the signing of this legislation got very favorable media coverage and was happy to see Mr. Gough at the press conference. Mr. Gough stated that it took 2 years to get it passed, but it finally did pass.
- General Counsel Adam Lasker will report later on the Community Safety Oversight Board. Mr. Gough, Adam Lasker and Communications Director Jim Allen met with City officials multiple times on this matter. There are some issues that they did not understand regarding elections to select the Oversight Board.
- We received last evening a draft contract from Dominion. We have not yet had an opportunity to review it. On September 11th we are meeting with the City regarding the budget and this needs to be ready by then.
  - A new Dominion representative will be at each of our future Board meetings.
  - Commissioner Swain asked for clarification on funding. Mr. Gough explained that the City pays for all voting equipment, the County only pays certain election costs.

C. Assistant Executive Director's Report

Assistant Executive Director Charles Holiday reported as follows:

- Board staff is excited about the new equipment rollout. The roll out team has been assembled.
- The Dominion project manager has us moving in the right direction.

D. Communications Director's Report

Communications Director Jim Allen reported as follows:

- Mr. Allen will separately brief the Board members regarding the DefCon conference in Las Vegas that he attended. He found it highly informative and is looking forward to attending it in the future. Homeland Security and the

Coast Guard participated. Commissioner Kresse asked Mr. Allen to describe DefCon. Mr. Allen explained:

- The convention is of all kinds of hackers. There are about 20,000 individuals spread over about 4 venues and Voting is just one small section of their activities there.
- The Voting section of DefCon is a small but concentrated area.
- It appears that most of the hackers are strongly opposed to online voting. It was nearly unanimously opposed.
- General Counsel Adam Lasker will discuss later a meeting they had regarding a pending ordinance regarding elected offices
- We got the proofs of the canvass notices from the printer, and the email solicitation webpage is ready to go. The mailing will go out as soon as we get the postage, hopefully in the next 4 days.

V. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Already discussed.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: Mr. Holiday reported that we are in the discussion phase of the cost of putting the ADA form on the e-poll book. We are waiting for the vendors to come back to us with their cost estimates.
- C. Voting Equipment: Previously discussed.
- D. Legislation: Mr. Lasker stated that there is nothing new to report.

VI. New Business

- A. Approval of the Chicago Board of Elections' 2020 Election Calendar for the 2020 primary and general elections.

Mr. Lasker reported that the Illinois State Board released their Candidate and Finance Calendar last week. So we are ready to go forward with ours. Our calendar is built on the same model that we have used in the past.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the 2020 Election Calendar for the 2020 primary and general elections. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was passed and the calendar approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

- B. Agreement between the Board and MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Business Services: This item has already been deferred.
- C. Approval of Motion to Withdraw a request for reconsideration of the removal of a Judge of Election.

Mr. Lasker reported on this matter. The Board removed a Judge of Election on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This Judge of Election filed a request for reconsideration. June Brown served as the Hearing Officer and conducted a day of hearings. The hearing was to be continued, but in the interim the Judge of Election submitted a request to withdraw the request for reconsideration. The hearing officer submitted her

recommendation granting the motion to withdraw the request for reconsideration thereby leaving in place the Board's Order of Removal.

The Chair stated that she had reviewed the material and asked if the other members had any questions or comments. There were none. The Chair reiterated:

The Board received a request for reconsideration from Judge of Election Ora Delores Milsap whom the Board had removed from office of Judge of Election from the 11th precinct of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward on Election Day of April 2, 2019. Subsequently the Board has received a request from that Judge of Election seeking to withdraw the request for reconsideration. The Board has reviewed the report and the recommendation of the Hearing Officer suggesting that the motion to withdraw be granted.

Commissioner Swain made a motion to grant the withdrawal and dismiss the reconsideration hearing regarding Ora Delores Milsap. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

#### VII. Legal Report

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported as follows:

Mr. Lasker and the Board are members of the Association of Election Commissioners of Illinois (AECOI) and together with AECOI we have crafted a pamphlet titled "What Election Commissions Are". These pamphlets are available at our office.

We have heard that there is a proposed ordinance to create a Police Accountability Commission. We have a meeting with the City about this. We received a draft of the ordinance about two weeks ago. There are many City Departments working on this. We have also met with the Corporation Counsel's office.

There are some items in the draft proposed ordinance that has us concerned:

- The proposal would have the election during the November election of general election years. That is our "partisan election cycle" a non-partisan election in a partisan election cycle may be unworkable. The Municipal Election cycle in the odd numbered years might work more smoothly, except that the draft ordinance is proposing 2-year terms whereas all of our city offices are 4-year terms. It would cost 10-12 million dollars to hold an election in a year that we may not otherwise.
- There may be additional concerns because of Article 7 Section 6F of the Illinois Constitution regarding Home Rule.

Mr. Lasker also has concerns about police districts serving as election districts. And that the draft ordinance does not address ballot access or signature requirements.

VIII. Financial Report

- A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2019 Appropriation – 19-04 dated August 27, 2019 in the amount of \$1,586,712.86

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listing 19-04. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

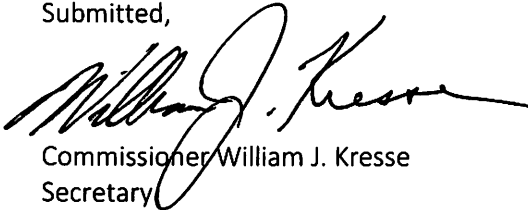
IX. Public Comment

Mr. George Blakemore made public comments regarding signature revocations, public accountability and public meeting participation.

X. Executive Session: None

- XI. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn until the next Board meeting of September 10<sup>th</sup> or upon the call of the Chair. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Kresse", is written over the printed name and title.

Commissioner William J. Kresse  
Secretary